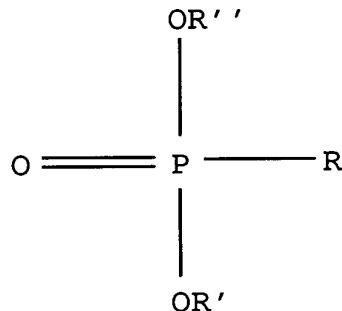


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8: (Cancelled)

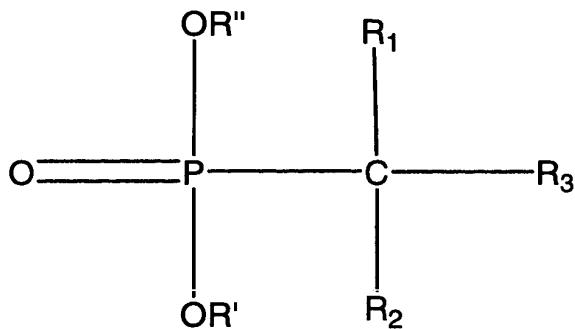
Claim 9 (Previously Amended): A drilling fluid comprising
water as base component;
a viscosifying agent to increase the viscosity of the fluid;
a filtrate reducing agent;
a weighting agent to adjust the density of the fluid;
a shale swelling inhibition agent comprising phosphate or silicate based compounds; and
an additive for a drilling fluid, consisting of a compound in accordance with the formula



wherein R, R' and R'' are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

Claim 10 (Original): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein R, R' and R'' are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C or O.

Claim 11 (Original): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive consists of a compound in accordance with the formula



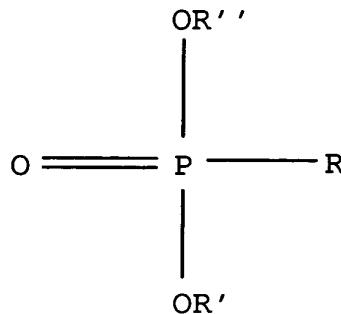
wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

Claim 12 (Original): The drilling fluid of claim 11, wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C or O.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

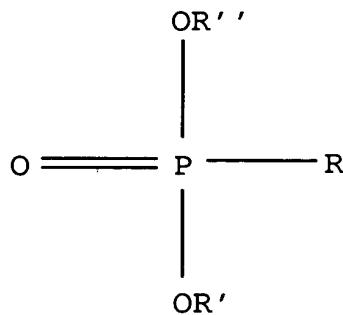
Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing accretion of cuttings in a borehole, said method comprising the step of preparing a drilling fluid comprising a viscosifying agent to increase the viscosity of the fluid, a filtrate reducing agent, a weighting agent to adjust the density of the fluid, a shale swelling inhibition agent comprising phosphate or silicate based compounds and an additive for a drilling fluid, consisting of a compound in accordance with the formula



wherein R, R' and R" are radicals exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

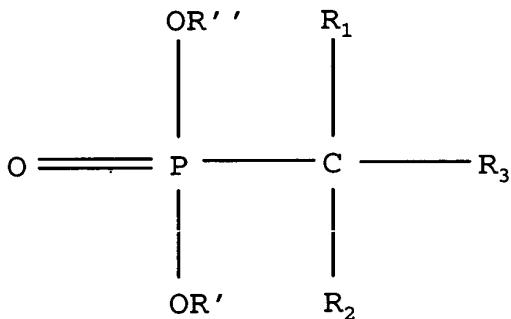
Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the additive is added in a concentration of up to about 10% weight by volume of the drilling fluid.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A drilling fluid being water-based and having an inhibitive component to reduce the hydration of shale comprising
water as base component;
a viscosifying agent to increase the viscosity of the fluid;
a weighting agent to adjust the density of the fluid;
a shale swelling inhibition agent;
further comprising an additive in accordance with the formula



where R, R' and R" are groups exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms, for reducing cuttings accretion and bit balling, wherein said additive is based on a phosphor derivative of the succinic acid.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The drilling fluid of claim 17, comprising an additive in accordance with the formula



where R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are groups exclusively containing H atoms or combinations of H, C, O or P atoms up to a maximum of 100 atoms.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The drilling fluid of claim 17, wherein the additive is based on a short chain phosphorylated hydrocarbon.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 17, comprising the additive in a concentration of up to about 10% weight by volume.

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 17, being a phosphate-based drilling fluid.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 21, being a silicate-based drilling fluid.

Claim 25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive is based on a phosphor derivative of the succinic acid.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the additive is based on a short phosphorylated hydrocarbon.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, comprising the additive in a concentration of up to about 10% weight by volume.

Claim 29 (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the shale swelling inhibition agent comprises phosphate based compounds.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The drilling fluid of claim 9, wherein the shale swelling inhibition agent comprises silicate based compounds.